

From: Justin I SPENCE
To: Callaghan.Marc@epamail.epa.gov; carr.matthew@epa.gov; Daryl A LEON; David M HOWE; Kevin H SIEBERT; SHIBLEY, Gail R
Date: 3/13/2008 11:12:07 AM
Subject: Re: Cesium release at Schnitzer Steel in OR

Matt Carr et al.,

On March 12, 2008 Oregon Radiation Protection Services (RPS) responded to a radiological event in St. Johns, OR. Responders identified which appears to be a leaking Cesium-137 source. My colleague Daryl Leon is RPS' lead on this incident. You can reach Daryl at 971-673-0498 or daryl.a.leon@state.or.us for detailed information. The RPS main phone line is 971-673-0490.

Daryl has the details, but I can give you a rough sketch. The St. John's, OR facility of Schnitzer Steel reported a radiation alarm on a load of scrap metal. The material had been offloaded from a barge, which had picked up the material at a scrap yard in Vancouver, Canada. The scrap metal appears to come from a Canadian company, Amix. The origin of the material, prior to the Vancouver scrap yard, is unknown at this time.

Three pieces containing Cs-137 have been identified. Two "fixed gage" pieces, each containing Cs-137 may be separated parts of one device. The first piece is U-shaped and the second is a straight pipe (photos P1010012.JPG and P1010013.JPG attached). Removable Cs-137 contamination has been identified from the U-shaped piece, and straight piece.

The third piece, a Cs-137 device (photo P1010015.JPG) is a wide cylinder attached to a square steel plate. This third piece does not appear to be part of the pieces one and two. The third device is missing the shutter, so the photon beam is exposed. The source identification plate is missing, and may have been pried off.

Schnitzer Steel has completely offloaded the barge, and would like to dispatch it to another location. RPS personnel plan to survey the barge before it's planned departure on 3/14/08.

Should you require additional details please contact one of the RPS health physicists, Daryl Leon, Kevin Siebert, or Justin Spence at 971-673-0508.

Best Regards,

Justin Spence
Health Physicist
Radiation Protection Services
Oregon Department of Human Services
971-673-0508

>>> <Callaghan.Marc@epamail.epa.gov> 3/13/2008 9:46 AM >>>

Matt-

Justin Spence with the OR Dept of Health gave me a call this morning

regarding a Cesium source release at Schnitzer steel here in Oregon. I have contacted OERS (Oregon Emergency Response System) for the most updated spill report.

OR Dept of Health is just giving us a heads up on this matter. They have not requested our assistance at this time. I told Justin I would notify all of you in the event that they need further assistance.

Matt Carr is the phone duty officer and lead EPA individual that should be kept in the loop. Matt can be reached at 206.553.1263. Matt will be able to coordinate other EPA resources as needed.

I will forward the OERS report to all of you once I receive it.

Respectfully,

Marc Callaghan, On-Scene Coordinator
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To report oil and chemical spills call the National Response Center at
(800) 424-8802

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